

Massachusetts Environmental Police arrest man fishing violations

On the morning of May 27, 2019, at the mouth of Falmouth Harbor, an Environmental Police Officer investigated a tip provided by the Falmouth Marine Environmental Services (MES) which resulted in a striped bass violation. The individual was found to be in possession of eleven (11) undersized striped bass. Each fish measured between 19-inches and 22-inches. The recreational possession limit for striped bass is one fish per day, a minimum of 28-inches in length.

The individual was arrested and charged with possession of undersized striped bass and being over the daily retention limit. The individual's rod and reel, tackle box, and catch were seized; the catch was subsequently donated.

The individual was arraigned in Falmouth District Court on Tuesday, May 28, and is scheduled for a pretrial hearing in early July.

The Massachusetts Environmental Police would like to thank Falmouth MES, Falmouth Police Department, and the Massachusetts State Police for their assistance with this case.



Massachusetts Supermarket Sentenced For \$110,000 in Snap Benefit Fraud

C-Mart Supermarket Inc. (C-Mart) was sentenced on Wednesday, May 29 in federal court in Boston in connection with an \$110,000 SNAP benefit fraud scheme that the corporate

defendant operated out of a Chinatown supermarket.

C-Mart was ordered by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris to pay \$110,000 in restitution and a \$10,000 fine. On Feb. 26, 2019, C-Mart Supermarket Inc. pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to acquire, possess, and redeem Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in an unauthorized manner, and one count of SNAP fraud/aiding and abetting.

SNAP, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides eligible households with government subsidies for food and allows holders to exchange their SNAP benefits for food at authorized retail food stores. During the time-frame of the conspiracy, C-Mart was an authorized SNAP retailer.

From about October 2010 through April 2012, C-Mart conspired with another business located in the Chinatown section of Boston to commit SNAP fraud. During that period, the co-conspirator and employees of the co-conspirator purchased SNAP benefits from legitimate SNAP beneficiaries for cash at a discounted value of approximately 50 cents for every SNAP dollar at the co-conspirator's establishment. As neither the co-conspirator nor its employees were authorized to accept SNAP benefits as payment, the co-conspirator took the SNAP beneficiaries' Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards or card information and used the dollar value of the benefits at several stores in Chinatown that were authorized to accept SNAP benefits. C-Mart was one of those stores. The co-conspirator would go to C-Mart and provide various EBT cards to a C-Mart employee who would swipe the EBT cards belonging to individuals who were not the co-conspirator. The co-conspirator would then receive credit from C-Mart to use those funds to purchase inventory from the store. Additionally, USDA deposited the dollar value of the benefits swiped on each food stamp EBT card into C-Mart's bank account; therefore, C-Mart received the cash value of the SNAP benefits from the USDA.

During the course of the conspiracy, C-Mart Supermarket Inc. defrauded the USDA of \$110,000 in SNAP funds.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Bethanne M. Dinkins, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigation, Northeast Region; Kristina O'Connell, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigations in Boston; and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Suzanne Sullivan Jacobus and Robert Richardson of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.

Massachusetts State Troopers arrest man wanted by US Marshals for trafficking narcotics

Just after 1 a.m. Thursday, Trooper Dario Trifone of the State Police-Northampton Barracks was patrolling Route 91 in Northampton when a vehicle passed his location with a loud and defective exhaust. Trooper Trifone caught up to and followed the 2002 Chevy Tracker for a short time then activated his blue lights and stopped it in Hatfield.

Upon stopping the vehicle Trooper Trifone approached it and informed the operator why he was stopped. He noticed there were two other occupants seated inside. The operator informed Trooper Trifone they were headed home to Vermont after picking up his friend in New York. Trooper Trifone gathered his license and registration then returned to his cruiser.

While Trooper Trifone was writing a citation he noticed the backseat passenger, identified as SHAWN SNEAD, 27, of Staten Island, N.Y., making strange movements. Trooper Trifone immediately called for backup and Trooper Brandon Andrews arrived a short time later.

Both troopers then approached the vehicle and had the occupants exit one by one in order to conduct a search of the area SNEAD was seated in. They located a hypodermic needle and a small bag of a substance believed to be heroin. Upon further investigation on scene the troopers located a bag containing 58 grams of a substance believed to be crack cocaine, 5 small yellow pills, and 12 small baggies containing heroin on SNEAD's person. They also located a scale and more than \$2800 of cash in the vehicle.

SNEAD was placed under arrest and transported to the Northampton Barracks for booking. The operator of the vehicle was issued a citation for operating with defective equipment and released from the scene. The front seat passenger was not charged. During booking it was discovered SNEAD had an active warrant for his arrest stemming from charges issued by the United States Marshalls Service. SNEAD was arraigned in Northampton District Court today on the following charges:

- Fugitive from Justice;
- Possession of a Class A Substance;
- Possession of a Class E Substance;
- Trafficking in Cocaine; and

Was there a kidnapping in New

Bedford on Wednesday?

According to the New Bedford police logs, there was a reported kidnapping in New Bedford at Clasky Common park on Wednesday at 5:36 am in New Bedford.

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Rep.ID</u>	<u>Ast.ID</u>	<u>Det.ID</u>	<u>Entered</u>	<u>Status</u>
19-6021-OF	4062	4007		05/29/2019	OPEN
Report Date> 05/29/2019 0536					
Location> Zone: 14 Grid 35					
CLASKY COMMONS - CLASKY PARK					
1405 PURCHASE ST					
Offenses> (1) KIDNAPPING					
IBR: 100 - KIDNAPPING / ABDUCTION					
(2) WITNESS/JUROR/POLICE/COURT OFFICIAL, INTIMIDATE					
IBR: 13C - INTIMIDATION					
(3) UNARMED ROBBERY					
IBR: 120 - ROBBERY					
(4) ASSAULT & BATTERY					
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES					

I reached out to the New Bedford Police but they aren't releasing any information at this time, only saying that the incident is under investigation.

The charges give a clue to what the reported kidnapping may be about:

1. Kidnapping
2. Intimidate Witness/Juror/Police/Court Official
3. Unarmed robbery
4. Assault and battery.

It clearly involved a someone with a case against them and possibly a witness in their trial. It's not uncommon in New Bedford for some of the bad players to attempt to intimidate a witness. I doubt someone would be able to kidnap a police officer and the 5:36 am likely eliminates a court official – why would they be at Clasky park that early?

Since the event was filed under incidents and not arrests, the police likely searching for the suspect at this time.

I'm clearly speculation, but I just wanted the public to know

that this wasn't just a random kidnapping at Clasky Park – it likely involved two people that know each other.

Taunton Stabber Sentenced to Five Years in Prison

A 29-year-old Taunton man, who sucker-punched and stabbed an unarmed victim in Taunton last May, was sentenced to serve five to seven years in state prison earlier this week, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Tomas Ortiz pleaded guilty in Fall River Superior Court to indictments charging him with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon—causing serious bodily injury and assault and battery.

On May 26, 2018, Taunton Police were called to Morton Hospital after a stabbing victim arrived with multiple stab wounds to his torso. The victim received 49 staples to close his wounds.

Police investigation revealed that the victim and his friend were at Bobby's Place in Taunton when two males entered the establishment and tried to pick a fight with the victim. A verbal altercation ensued, at which point security personnel at Bobby's Place ejected the entire group from this establishment. Video surveillance obtained from a nearby business showed that the defendant sucker-punched the victim while the victim was engaged in an argument with another male. The victim and the defendant traded blows before the defendant pulled a knife and began slashing and stabbing at the victim. The defendant then returned to his vehicle and drove off.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jeanne

Veenstra and the state prison sentence was imposed by Judge Renee Dupuis.

“I am pleased the defendant was held accountable for the unprovoked stabbing of the victim. This is senseless violence committed by a defendant who has already served prison time for a serious drug offense.”

New Bedford Man Indicted For Federal Drug Offenses

A New Bedford man was charged yesterday in federal court in Boston with distributing cocaine and marijuana.

Luis Mendez, 37, was indicted on one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana. Mendez has been in state custody since his arrest on Feb. 7, 2019.

According to the charging document, on Feb. 7, 2019, after an investigation into drug distribution in and around New Bedford, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at Mendez's apartment, where Mendez was found in possession of approximately 15 grams of cocaine and 500 grams of marijuana. Mendez has prior felony convictions for narcotics distribution.

The charge of distribution of a controlled substance provides for a sentence of no greater than 30 years in prison, up to a lifetime of supervised release, and a maximum fine up to \$2 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Office; and New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas Soivilien of Lelling's Organized Crime and Gang Unit is prosecuting the case.

This prosecution is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. The Department of Justice reinvigorated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department's renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney's Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

The details contained in the indictment are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Wareham Police arrest three, seize crack cocaine, Suboxone, scales, police scanner

As the result of ongoing surveillance for illegal drug activity at the Woods at Wareham complex, Wareham Police Detectives raided an apartment there on Wednesday morning, May 29.

Just prior to executing the search warrant at about 10:30 a.m., detectives observed the female resident of Apartment 95 get into a car, and proceed to Bayview Street where it parked. A suspected drug deal occurred with the occupants of a second vehicle, which had now pulled up to the parked car. Detectives moved in and arrested three individuals at that location. Placed in custody were:

- Pamela Denwood, 59, of 48 Swifts Beach Road, Apartment 95, charged with distributing a class "B" drug, possession of a class "B" drug, and conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substance Act.
- Krystal Roszak, 31, of Wareham, charged with possession of a class "B" drug, and conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substance Act.
- Edward Roszak, 39, of Wareham, charged with conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substance Act.

Detectives seized suspected crack cocaine, Suboxone, \$177.00 in cash, multiple scales, a police scanner, and other items associated with illegal drug distribution.

The three were transported to police headquarters where they processed, and later taken to Wareham District Court.

Guatemalan National Wanted for Crimes Against Humanity Charged with Illegal Reentry

A Guatemalan national wanted for his role in the 1980s massacre of indigenous Guatemalans was charged yesterday in

federal court in Boston.

Francisco Cuxum Alvarado, a/k/a Francisco Cuxun-Alvarado, 64, was indicted on one count of illegal reentry into the United States. Cuxum Alvarado was detained following an arraignment yesterday.

“Mr. Cuxum Alvarado is in Massachusetts illegally, evading accountability for human rights violations in Guatemala,” said United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. “While many immigrants come to this country seeking a better life, Mr. Cuxum Alvarado came here illegally, to escape a dark, criminal past. This case highlights the important work of Homeland Security Investigations and ICE in identifying and removing war criminals, human rights violators, and other dangerous aliens who illegally seek a safe haven in the United States.”

“We congratulate the U.S. Attorney for pursuing justice in this case,” said Peter C. Fitzhugh, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigation (HSI), Boston. “Homeland Security Investigations looks forward to the disturbing and egregious allegations against this individual being openly and fairly adjudicated in federal court.”

According to court documents, beginning in the early 1980s, there were a series of attacks committed against the indigenous Maya Achi people of Rio Negro, in and around the municipality of Rabinal, in Guatemala. During these massacres, Guatemalan armed forces, assisted by civilian militias known as the Civil Defense Patrols (PACs), forcibly removed the Maya Achi from Rio Negro and attacked and killed hundreds of them. More than 400 Maya Achi people were killed in the Rio Negro massacres and hundreds of others were forcibly removed from their homes. In addition to the murders, there were mass sexual assaults carried out against Achi-Mayan women.

It is alleged that Cuxum Alvarado was a member of the PAC in

Rabinal, and in 1998, was named as a suspect in the March 13, 1982, massacre of women and children at Cerro Pacoxom. In 2018, the Guatemalan government charged Cuxum Alvarado with crimes against humanity for participating in the mass sexual assault of Maya Achi women in and around Rabinal. In connection with the charges, the Guatemalan government obtained an INTERPOL Red Notice for Cuxum Alvarado's arrest, which is a request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest suspects pending extradition to the jurisdiction in which they are charged. Cuxum Alvarado will be subject to extradition to Guatemala.

On April 30, 2019, Cuxum Alvarado was located in Waltham and arrested. During a subsequent interview with law enforcement, Cuxum Alvarado admitted that he was a member of the Rabinal PAC. At the time of his arrest, Cuxum Alvarado was unlawfully in the United States. He previously unlawfully entered the country in March 2004 in Arizona, and was ordered to be removed.

The charging statute provides for a sentence of no greater than two years in prison, one year of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The defendant will be subject to deportation upon completion of any sentence imposed. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

U.S. Attorney Lelling and HSI SAC Fitzhugh made the announcement today. This case was developed and supported by ICE's Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center, and investigated by HSI Boston's Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Investigative Group and ERO Boston's Fugitive Operations Unit. The Waltham Police Department and the HSI Attaché in Guatemala City, Guatemala assisted in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney George P. Varghese of Lelling's National Security Unit is prosecuting the case.

Westport fatal Hit and Run driver placed in custody

The 54-year-old Fall River man accused of a fatal hit-and-run incident on Old Bedford Road in Westport earlier this month has turned himself in to authorities at the Westport Police Station, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Gerardo Lugo, 54, of Fall River, is charged with leaving the scene-death resulting, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, driving with a suspended license and trafficking heroin in excess of 100 grams.

The suspect vehicle, a grey BMW, was located and seized last week in Fall River after an anonymous tip was received. During a subsequent execution of a search warrant at the defendant's Cherry Street apartment last week, investigators found the keys to the BMW and a plastic bag containing just under 200 grams of suspected heroin.

After this office released the defendant's identity to the media yesterday and listing him on the Bristol County Most Wanted Fugitives List, the defendant chose today to turn himself over to authorities. He will be arraigned tomorrow morning in Fall River District Court.

"I would like to thank the public and the media for their assistance in solving this case," District Attorney Quinn said. "The publicity in this case clearly resulted in the defendant turning himself in today."

Westport Police received a 911 call at 8:15 pm on May 7 to report a crash and a severely injured woman in the area of 288

Old Bedford Road. When first responders arrived, they located the victim, Stephanie Tripp, 30, of Fall River, face down in the breakdown lane suffering from major injuries. The victim was rushed to Rhode Island Hospital, where she remained in critical condition until her death on May 16.

A preliminary investigation has revealed the victim was walking along the side of the roadway when she was struck by a BMW. The male operator of the vehicle exited the car momentarily. A witness told the driver to stay on scene, but as the witness was providing aid to the victim, the driver sped off in an easterly direction on Old Bedford Road. Another witness attempted to follow the suspect's vehicle, which, according to the witness, was travelling at high rates of speed and passing vehicles by passing into the opposite travel lane. The witness lost the suspect's vehicle in the area of Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth.

Massachusetts man arrested for breaking into homes of people attending funeral services

On Saturday May 25th, the Franklin Police responded to a citizen request to check a property on Highwood Drive. The caller had reported that his property in the Town of Wrentham had recently been broken into, and he feared that the Franklin property may also be targeted.

Responding officers found signs of a break in and located a suspect, Daniel LENNON (age 37) of Stoughton, MA. LENNON was

taken into custody.

During the investigation, officers found documents indicating LENNON had been targeting homes of families who had lost family members and would be attending services for them.

An investigation is still ongoing with law enforcement agencies from neighboring communities.

LENNON was held on \$50,000 cash bail over the weekend. He was arraigned in the Wrentham District Court on Tuesday, May 28th on the new charges and a warrant for outstanding charges by the United States Marshall's Office.

LENNON was charged with the following offenses for crimes committed in the Town of Franklin:

- Possession of burglarious instrument
- Disorderly conduct
- Breaking & Entering for misdemeanor
- Malicious/Wanton Damage to property
- Possession of a Class E substance